Plan to make Jute and Jute Products more Competitive

297. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to improve the productivity of jute and jute products at every stage; and

(b) if not, how does Government plan to make jute and jute products more competitive in comparision to other products available?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government has taken some positive steps to improve the productivity of raw jute by launching the Special Jute Development Programme (SJDF) with cent percent central assistance in 1987-88 and the programme is continuing since then with minor modification from time to time:

As a result of the above endeavour on the part of the Government of India, there has been a significant increase in productivity of raw jute as can be seen from figures indicated below:

Years	Area('000HA)		Production('000 Bales)			Yield(Kg/HA)	
	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Raw Jute	Jute	Mesta
9th Plan Average	850.4	186.0	9625.1	1099.0	10724.1	2014	1064
2001-02	873.1	174.1	10583.9	1094.4	11678.3	2182	1132
2002-03	864.4	176.3	10299.1	1036.8	11335.9	2145	1059
2003-04	819.0	162.0	10272.5	983.9	11256.4	2258	1093

The productivity of manufacturing units producing B-Twill jute bags is reflected in the Jute Manufactures Development Council norms for the industry, calculated on the basis of average productivity of the industry. Such productivity has, in the recent past, improved as a result of several positive steps undertaken by the Government. The JMDC norm which was 45.55 manday/Metric Ton in 2000 has improved to 37.78 mandays/Metric Ton in 2003. Government of India is providing assistance to the jute industry to modernize through the schemes like (i) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ii) JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry and (iii) Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance (Capital Subsidy) Scheme.